

# Citywide Community Clean Up Events Report



Kris Hageman, 12-2014



## Background

Community clean up events have been organized annually for over 20 years. These events have been a collaborative effort between the City of Saint Paul and District Councils (DC's) to offer convenient and economical options for large item refuse disposal and increased recycling and reuse opportunities. Typically, 14 events have occurred each year scheduled mainly during May/June and September/October.

The majority of logistical responsibilities have fallen on the DC's. City staff responsibilities included: assisting with promotion, supplementing on site signage and supervision if requested, reviewing clean up reports and authorizing reimbursement payments to councils for costs incurred. These costs included, but are not limited to: service provider fees for refuse and C/D collection, hauling and disposal; recyclable materials handling, hauling and disposal; reuse service providers, volunteer recruitment and oversight, food/beverages, permits and fees related to collection sites.

These events are considered a positive, community building opportunity by some District Councils. Most DC's recognize the significance of the service, the reasonable fees for disposing of large refuse items and increased recycling opportunities supported. Accepting small engines, bikes and household goods has also supported local, neighborhood businesses.

## 2014 Restructure

Following lengthy discussions with District Council leadership, a restructured system was put in place for 2014. The main goals of the restructure effort were to capitalize on city staff and DC capacity for completing tasks more efficiently and economically as well as increase participation. The objectives initiated to achieve the above mentioned goals include:

- Allowing citywide access to all residents
- Reducing the number of events
- Reducing the number of locations
- Improving and standardizing signage

Additional goals include:

- Increase outreach to communities of color and non-participants
- Improve consistency of accepted materials and pricing structure
- Reduce costs for contracted services

The main responsibilities for DC's now include: organizing direct/detailed promotional effort, volunteer recruitment and support during the event and assisting with small vendor participation. The main responsibilities shifted to city staff include: promotion review/support, securing locations and vendors/contractors; site logistics (permits, fees, equipment needs); and documentation.

Citywide access to all events was promoted by the City and District Councils throughout the year as well as included in the Ramsey County Going Green Guide annual mailing reaching every household in the city in March. A detailed description of each event was mailed or published within each District Council nearest/adjacent to each event. For example, residents within Districts 10, 11, 12, and 13 received detailed information for the event September 20<sup>th</sup> held at the MN State Fair Grounds.

District Council Lead Organizer	Location		Date
Summit Hill Association	Pleasant Ave. (St. Clair Ave. & Victoria St.)	West	May 17, 2014
District 1 Community Council	Harding High School	East	May 31, 2014
District 10 Como Community Council	Washington Tech High School	Central	June 21, 2014
Hamline Midway Coalition	MN State Fair Grounds	West	September 20, 2014
Highland District Council	Shepard Rd. (Davern St. & Alton St.)	West	September 27, 2014
Payne Phalen D5 Planning Council	Phalen Lake Beach House	East	October 18, 2014

## 2014 General Information

- Fewer cars over all 2672 vs. 3848 in 2013.
  - more uniform number per event (455 average)
- Higher construction debris, general refuse and recycling pounds per vehicle.
- Less reuse pounds per vehicle.
- Random sampling verified residents from neighborhoods not immediately adjacent to host district did attend the event.
  - In addition, volunteers assisted at events not in their immediate neighborhood.
- Four of six events provided Senior Pick up services
- Average General Load/gate fee \$18

Pounds per Vehicle

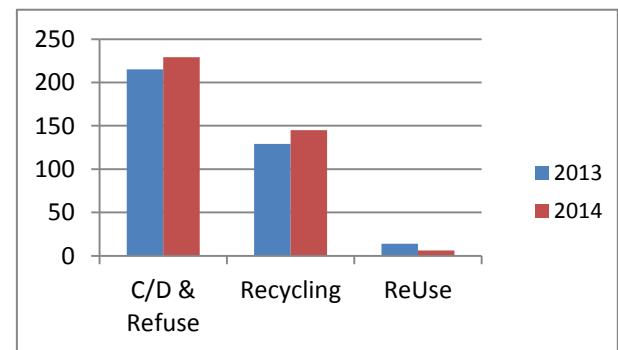


Figure 1

## Visitors- Volunteers - Tons

Clean up Materials		2014		Disposal Tons		Recycling Tons								Reuse Tons		
Event		Vehicles/ loads	Volunteers	General Refuse	C/D	Concrete	Mattresses	Electronics	Appliances	Tires	Scrap Metal	OCC	Quantity	Sm Engines	Bikes	HH Goods
													Fl. Bulbs			
May 17	Pleasant	457	48	22.48	26.81	15	1	10.41	6.5	0.3	3.22	NA	452			
May 31	Harding HS	423	57	22.79	43.09	10	1.22	8.03	5.1	0.6	4.58	0.31	494	0.58	0.24	0.51
	Senior P ups X															
June 21	WTM HS	283	27	11.6	18.74	10	0.6	3.95	5.3	0.5	1.71	NA	218	0.3	0.3	0.25
Sept. 20	MN State Fair	570	48	24.88	36.03	20	0.5	8.26	9.08	0.66	4.88	N/A	863	1.12		0.4
	Senior P ups X															
Sept. 27	Shepard Rd.	601	75	23.51	38.62	10	1.28	7.53	8.27	0.36	4.28	N/A		1.58		2
	HHW 266 cars											0.16				
Oct. 18	Lake Phalen BH	338	50	22.79	15.42	10	1.58	11.41	4.26	0.67	3.21	N/A	190	0.32	0.38	0.35
	Senior P ups X															
Totals	D1 S pick ups too	2672	305	128.05	178.71	75	6.18	49.59	38.51	3.09	21.88	0.47	2217	3.9	0.92	3.51
2014				307		195								8.33		
2013		3848	633	414		243								27		

Figure 2

## 2014 Cost Information

### Costs

Clean up Costs		2014									
Event		Vehicles/ loads	Gate Revenue	Average General Load/ Gate Fee	General Refuse Costs	C/D Costs	Recycling Costs	Promotion Costs	Direct/InD Expenses	DC staff expense	DC Reimb. Requests Total
May 17	Pleasant	457	\$ 8,543.75	\$ 18.70	\$ 3,401.92	\$2,800.00	\$ 6,328.00	\$ 3,542.19	\$ 1,988.57	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 6,429.00
May 31	Harding HS	423	\$ 7,546.00	\$ 17.80	\$ 3,812.09	\$5,200.00	\$ 5,931.00	\$ 3,110.60	\$ 1,465.48	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 5,530.00
	Senior P ups X										
June 21	WTM HS	283	\$ 5,100.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 3,851.49	\$3,200.00	\$ 3,149.00	\$ 4,997.87	\$ 1,430.20	\$ 1,190.52	\$ 4,576.00
Sept. 20	MN State Fair	570	\$ 9,746.00	\$ 17.09	\$ 4,949.08	\$5,200.00	\$ 5,022.00	\$ 5,019.38	\$ 618.80	\$ 960.00	\$ 6,598.18
	Senior P ups X										
Sept. 27	Shepard Rd.	601	\$ 11,635.00	\$ 19.35	\$ 4,835.85	\$3,600.00	\$ 5,523.00	\$ 2,111.07	\$ 1,471.44	\$ 1,567.30	\$ 5,324.81
	HHW 266 cars									\$ 175.00	
Oct. 18	Lake Phalen BH	338	\$ 6,725.00	\$ 18.97	\$ 5,058.82	\$2,000.00	\$ 5,941.00	\$ 4,742.51	\$ 445.93	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 6,788.44
	Senior P ups X										
<b>Totals</b>	D1 S pick ups too	<b>2672</b>	<b>\$ 49,295.75</b>	<b>\$ 18.32</b>	<b>\$ 25,909.25</b>	<b>\$22,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 31,894.00</b>	<b>\$23,523.62</b>	<b>\$ 7,420.42</b>	<b>\$ 8,292.82</b>	<b>\$ 35,246.43</b>
					<b>\$ 47,909.00</b>		Cost per ton \$164		<b>\$ 15,713.24</b>		
					Cost per ton \$156						
2013		<b>3848</b>	<b>\$ 70,542.00</b>	<b>\$ 16.43</b>		<b>\$ 105,980.00</b>	<b>\$ 37,383.00</b>	<b>\$37,050.00</b>		<b>\$ 34,178.00</b>	<b>\$ 144,049.00</b>
					Ave. cost per ton \$254		Ave. cost per ton \$154				

Figure 3

Cost totals by category and year	2014	2013
General Refuse	\$ 25,909.00	\$105,980.00
C/D	\$ 22,000.00	
Concrete	\$ 1,480.00	\$ 37,383.00
mattresses	\$ 8,655.00	
Electronics	\$ 17,863.00	
Appliances	\$ 4,480.00	
Tires	\$ 1,515.00	
Scrap Metal	\$ (2,099.00)	
OCC	\$ 185.00	
Promotion	\$ 23,523.00	\$ 37,050.00
Other Direct Exp.	\$ 7,420.00	\$ 34,178.00
District Council Exp.	\$ 8,293.00	
City Expenses	\$ 2,795.00	
Sub total	\$ 122,019.00	\$ 214,591.00
Gate Revenue	\$ (49,296.00)	\$ (70,542.00)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 72,723.00</b>	<b>\$ 144,049.00</b>

Figure 4 \*Straight category cost comparisons difficult as expenses were not categorized the same way in 2013 and 2014.

## General Observations

- Additional financial support given to Lead Organizers per 2014 District Council/City of Saint Paul Education/Outreach and Community Clean Up Agreement.
- Estimates for District Council staff time and reimbursements were low for some and adequate for others.
- District Councils appreciative of the shift in responsibilities.
- Volunteers- mainly from host districts but we did get citywide volunteers as well.
- Attendance-majority from host or adjacent districts but we did get citywide participation at all events.
- City incurred additional expenses for equipment and supplies (tent, sign boards, receipts, etc.) in 2014.
- Working through new finance system and cash handling requirements a chore.
- Additional promotion needed in 2015 to increase participation.
- Four site locations very good.
  - Pleasant Ave. small for higher vehicle count
  - Phalen Lake Beach House parking lot adequate